



Colorado
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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COLORADO SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES -- 1999

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Colorado farmers and ranchers lost 63,000 head of sheep and lambs to all causes in 1999, representing a total value of \$4.47 million, according to a survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Colorado Wool Growers Association. A comparable survey in 1998 indicated that 65,000 head of all sheep and lambs, valued at \$4.70 million, were lost from all causes. The number of head lost was down 3 percent from 1998. The value of those losses was down 5 percent as a 3 percent increase in the average value for lambs more than offset a 12 percent decline in the average value of sheep. The total inventory of all sheep and lambs at the beginning of 1999, at 440,000 head, was 23 percent below the 575,000 head inventory on hand on January 1, 1998. Most of the decline from a year earlier was in the number of market sheep and lambs as the number of breeding sheep and lambs was only 20,000 head under the previous year. The 1999 lamb crop totaled 210,000 head, down from the 1998 lamb crop of 220,000 head. Total sheep and lamb death losses in 1999 accounted for 9.5 percent of the available supply of animals during the year compared with losses in 1998 totaling 8.0 percent of the available supply.

Predators caused an estimated \$1.64 million in losses of sheep and lambs during 1999 compared with a value of \$1.97 million in 1998. They accounted for 23,000 head (37 percent of all losses) in 1999 compared with 27,000 head (42 percent of all losses) in 1998. Predator losses amounted to 3.5 percent of the available supply in 1999, up from the 3.3 percent of the sheep and lamb supply in 1998. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 20,000 head in 1999 compared to 22,500 head a year earlier. Coyotes, the most damaging predator in each year, were responsible for 71 percent (14,200 head valued at \$951,400) of the lamb losses from predators and 26 percent of all lamb losses. Bears and dogs each claimed an additional 1,400 head of lambs, for a combined loss value of \$187,600. Bear and coyote were also the primary predators on sheep, each accounting for 1,000 head in 1999 for a combined loss value of \$197,000. Dogs and mountain lions killed 3,000 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$226,200 during 1999, while losses from eagle, fox, and bobcat totaled 1,800 head valued at \$120,600. Two-thirds of the predator losses occurred in the Northwest & Mountain and Southwest Districts where all of the major predators were active. Coyotes and dogs continue to be the major predators in the Northeast District where most of the commercial feedlots are located while eagles and fox are the major predators in other Districts.

The total value of sheep and lamb losses from **non-predator causes** was estimated at \$2.84 million in 1999, up 4 percent from \$2.73 million a year. The increase from 1998 resulted mostly from a slightly higher percentage of the total losses coming from lambs which had a slightly higher value per head than a year earlier. Non-predator losses of 40,000 head in 1999 represented 63 percent of all losses compared with 38,000 head or 58 percent of all losses the previous year. Losses from disease accounted for 58 percent of the total value of non-predator losses with weather related losses representing 8 percent. Disease claimed two-thirds of the lambs lost from non-predator causes but just 16 percent of the mature sheep losses. Nearly three-fourths of the non-predator losses occurred in the Northeast District where disease and weather related problems are the predominant cause of loss in the state's commercial feedlots. Lambing problems accounted for \$219,900 of the total value of the non-predator losses with most of those occurring in the western portions of the state.

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SHEEP & LAMBS: Inventory, Death Losses, and Value of Losses, Colorado, 1995-99

Year	January 1 Inventory All Sheep & Lambs	Lamb Crop	Death Losses					
			Sheep	All Lambs			All Sheep & Lambs	
			Total Losses	Before Docking	After Docking	All Lambs	Total Loss	Percent of Supply 1/
	1,000 Head			1,000 Head				Percent
1995	545	240	10	15	55	70	80	10.0
1996	535	240	10	20	45	65	75	9.4
1997	575	225	10	20	45	65	75	9.1
1998	575	220	10	15	40	55	65	8.0
1999	440	210	8	15	40	55	63	9.5
Year	Total Sheep & Lamb Losses By Cause					Value Of Losses		
	Predator Losses		Non-Predator Losses			Predator	Non-Predator	Total
	Total Loss	Percent of Supply 1/	Non-Predator	Percent of Supply 1/				
	1,000 Hd.	Percent	1,000 Head			1,000 Dollars		
1995	26.0	3.3	54.0	6.8	1,930.4	3,959.6	5,890.0	
1996	30.0	3.8	45.0	5.7	2,502.3	3,720.8	6,223.1	
1997	34.0	4.1	41.0	5.0	2,944.0	3,511.0	6,455.0	
1998	27.0	3.3	38.0	4.7	1,966.5	2,728.5	4,695.0	
1999	23.0	3.5	40.0	6.0	1,635.5	2,837.5	4,473.0	

1/ Supply includes sheep and lambs on hand January 1 plus lamb crop plus lamb losses before docking.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Number and Value of Losses by Cause, Colorado, 1998-99 1/

Cause	Sheep				Lambs				Total Sheep & Lambs			
	No. Lost		Value 2/		No. Lost		Value 2/		No. Lost		Value 2/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Predator:	1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000	
Bear	1.2	1.0	134.4	98.5	1.2	1.4	78.0	93.8	2.4	2.4	212.4	192.3
Bobcat .....	...	...	...	...	0.1	0.1	6.5	6.7	0.1	0.1	6.5	6.7
Coyote	1.4	1.0	156.8	98.5	17.5	14.2	1,137.5	951.4	18.9	15.2	1,294.3	1,049.9
Dog	0.2	0.4	22.4	39.4	0.8	1.4	52.0	93.8	1.0	1.8	74.4	133.2
Eagle .....	...	...	...	...	0.5	1.0	32.5	67.0	0.5	1.0	32.5	67.0
Fox .....	...	...	...	...	0.7	0.7	45.5	46.9	0.7	0.7	45.5	46.9
Mountain Lion	0.8	0.4	89.6	39.4	1.2	0.8	78.0	53.6	2.0	1.2	167.6	93.0
Other Predator 3/ ..	0.9	0.2	100.8	19.7	0.5	0.4	32.5	26.8	1.4	0.6	133.3	46.5
Total Predator	4.5	3.0	504.0	295.5	22.5	20.0	1,462.5	1,340.0	27.0	23.0	1,966.5	1,635.5
Non-Predator:												
All Diseases	0.4	0.8	44.8	78.8	15.1	23.5	981.5	1,574.5	15.5	24.3	1,026.3	1,653.3
Weather related ...	0.3	0.2	33.6	19.7	7.5	3.2	487.5	214.4	7.8	3.4	521.1	234.1
Lambing problems ..	0.6	0.6	67.2	59.1	2.1	2.4	136.5	160.8	2.7	3.0	203.7	219.9
Old age	2.3	2.0	257.6	197.0	...	...	...	...	2.3	2.0	257.6	197.0
Being on back	0.1	0.2	11.2	19.7	...	...	...	...	0.1	0.2	11.2	19.7
Poisoning	0.5	0.2	56.0	19.7	1.4	0.2	91.0	13.4	1.9	0.4	147.0	33.1
Theft .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes 4/ ...	1.3	1.0	145.6	98.5	6.4	5.7	416.0	381.9	7.7	6.7	561.6	480.4
Total Non-Predator ..	5.5	5.0	616.0	492.5	32.5	35.0	2,112.5	2,345.0	38.0	40.0	2,728.5	2,837.5
Total All Causes	10.0	8.0	1,120.0	788.0	55.0	55.0	3,575.0	3,685.0	65.0	63.0	4,695.0	4,473.0

1/ Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1 year old and older; Value of \$112.00 for 1998, \$98.50 for 1999.

Lamb value is based on the marketing year average price received for a 90 pound lamb; Value of \$65.00 for 1998, \$67.00 for 1999.

2/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 3/ Includes unknown predator losses. 4/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:
Percent Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District,
by Type of Predator, Colorado, 1999 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Predator:	Percent						
Bear	55.4	...	...	41.3	3.3	...	100.0
Bobcat	73.6	...	...	26.4	...	...	100.0
Coyote	34.3	22.3	1.5	30.5	10.0	1.4	100.0
Dog	1.9	62.5	1.5	18.5	14.6	1.0	100.0
Eagle	73.2	...	2.0	12.4	12.4	...	100.0
Fox	61.9	...	...	...	35.7	2.4	100.0
Mountain Lion	76.3	.1	...	23.6	...	...	100.0
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	6.9	...	...	46.7	44.9	1.5	100.0
Total Predator	38.0	19.6	1.0	28.7	11.6	1.1	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown predators.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:
Percent Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District,
by Non-predator Causes, Colorado, 1999 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Non-Predator:	Percent						
All Diseases	4.1	89.2	.9	2.8	2.3	.7	100.0
Weather related causes .	22.5	27.8	15.9	16.3	14.2	3.3	100.0
Lambing problems	43.8	10.2	6.2	33.1	5.1	1.6	100.0
Old age	39.0	17.2	12.0	15.6	14.0	2.2	100.0
Being on their back	6.2	3.8	...	38.5	51.5	...	100.0
Poisoning	28.1	...	...	36.0	10.4	25.5	100.0
Theft	74.0	...	...	...	26.0	...	100.0
Other non-predator <u>2/</u> . .	8.8	79.9	.3	5.7	2.9	2.4	100.0
Total Non-Predator . .	9.2	74.5	2.3	8.1	4.6	1.3	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.



SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent of Loss by Cause and Size of Flock, Colorado, 1998-99 1/

Cause	Stock Sheep Operations by Size of Flock						Commercial Feedlots		All Sizes	
	1 - 99		100 - 999		1,000 Plus					
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Predator:	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Bear .....	.4	1.0	2.4	3.7	10.5	14.8	...	...	4.5	3.6
Bobcat .....	...	...	...	.7	.4	.9	...	...	.2	.3
Coyote	26.3	21.5	32.2	29.4	30.0	24.1	5.6	2.7	18.9	11.2
Dog	10.7	7.1	3.0	2.7	.2	2.0	.9	2.8	1.4	3.0
Eagle .....	...	.2	...	.7	2.2	.5	...	...	.9	.2
Fox .....	.5	6.1	1.2	.9	3.1	3.7	...	...	1.4	1.3
Mountain Lion	1.3	2.7	6.1	3.3	7.8	6.2	...	...	3.8	1.8
Other Predator <u>2/</u> .....	.4	.2	.4	1.8	11.9	3.4	...	...	4.9	.9
Total Predator:	39.6	38.8	45.3	43.2	66.1	55.6	6.5	5.5	36.0	22.3
Non-Predator:										
All Diseases	9.1	21.2	11.0	27.1	4.0	18.0	81.0	82.5	39.4	59.0
Weather related	22.4	8.8	9.9	11.7	10.1	5.3	10.0	1.0	10.8	3.5
Lambing problems	14.7	15.4	11.9	6.8	8.0	7.6	...	...	5.1	3.4
Old age	5.9	7.9	4.9	5.1	2.3	3.4	...	...	1.7	1.8
Being on back .....	.5	.9	.7	1.4	.3	.2	...	...	.2	.2
Poisoning	1.1	1.0	1.9	1.7	4.0	1.3	.3	...	2.0	.5
Theft .....	.2	...	.9	.4	...	...	...	...	.1	...
Other non-predator <u>3/</u>	6.5	6.0	13.5	2.6	5.2	8.6	2.2	11.0	4.7	9.3
Total Non-Predator	60.4	61.2	54.7	56.8	33.9	44.4	93.5	94.5	64.0	77.7
Total All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

... = none reported.

1/ Includes lambs before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown predator losses.

3/ Includes unknown non-predator causes.